



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
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<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

February 22, 2010

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "WTF", is placed over the printed name of William T. Fujioka.

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

HOUSING AUTHORITY

On April 3, 2007, your Board instructed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to provide information regarding the process of adding investigator positions to the Housing Authority. Investigators are responsible for conducting investigations of alleged criminal fraud and program violations (unauthorized tenants and unreported income) committed by families participating in the Housing Authority's Section 8 and Conventional Public Housing programs. In a subsequent meeting with Housing Authority managers, it was determined that the Housing Authority had a sufficient number of investigators; but, the investigators lacked peace officer status. Without peace officer status, investigators are unable to access necessary law enforcement databases, reports, and cannot execute search warrants to obtain financial information required for conducting criminal investigations.

On July 12, 2007, my Office provided your Board with information on the process for obtaining peace officer status. We reported that before Los Angeles County can consider providing peace officer status to Housing Authority investigators, the California Peace Officer Standard and Training (POST) Commission must conduct a feasibility study to determine whether peace officer status, or a change in status or designation, is justified for the positions under consideration. At that time, my Office recommended that the Housing Authority consider moving forward with the required POST Commission feasibility study and agreed to report back to your Board following the completion of the study.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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The Housing Authority advises that it has decided not to move forward at this time in seeking peace officer status for their investigators and to possibly revisit this matter at a later time. The Housing Authority is concerned whether peace officer status for its investigators could result in their eligibility for tax-free full salary benefits under Labor Code Section 4850. The Housing Authority needs more time to work on this matter.

In the meantime, the Housing Authority is able to obtain information needed to address Section 8 tenant program violations through the recently implemented U.S. Department of Housing Urban Development Enterprise Income Verification System and the COPLINK data sharing Agreement with the Sheriff's Department.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please have your staff contact Rosemary Gutierrez at (213) 974-0564.

WTF:JW:LS
DS:RG:cvb

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Executive Director, Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles